

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Sprunk, et al.)	Confirmation No.: 7975
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U.S. Serial No.: 10/049,812)	Customer No.: 000043471
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Filed: December 27, 2001)	Art Unit: 2136
)	
)	Examiner: Hoffman, Brandon S.
)	
Title: MULTIPLE LEVEL PUBLIC KEY HEIRARCHY FOR PERFORMANCE AND HIGH SECURITY		

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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REMARKS FOR PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections include clear errors because one or more limitations are not met by the cited reference.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,306, issued June 2, 1998). Applicants disagree.

Lewis discloses a public key replacement apparatus and method for operating over insecure networks. An active public key and the mask of a replacement public key are provided by a key server to nodes where the active key is used to encrypt and verify messages. To replace the active public key with the replacement public key, a key replacement message is sent to the node. The key replacement message contains the